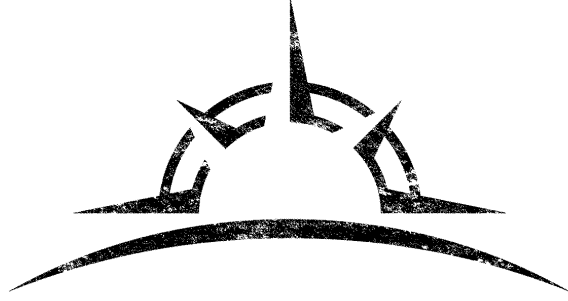


EL PASO



MUSEUM *of* HISTORY



Rediscover a Cultural Crossroads

Grand Opening – Free Admission
Saturday, June 16th, 2007 Noon – 5 p.m.

510 N. Santa Fe Street El Paso, Texas 79901
T: 915-351-3588 F: 915-351-4345
Website: www.elpasotexas.gov/history

The El Paso Museum of History's brand mark, the *compass rising*, is symbolic of El Paso's rise as a cultural crossroads. The brand mark combines elements of a compass (in reference to the multitude of directions from whence people came to this region), and a rising sun (to reference one of our most dominant natural elements). The slight rise in the line under the compass rising is meant to abstractly reference the presence of the mountains in the region.



The El Paso Museum of History

Our Mission

The El Paso Museum of History exists for the educational benefit of the community and visitors. It promotes the understanding and significance of the rich multicultural and multinational history of the border region known as, “The Pass of the North.” Through exhibits and programs, the Museum involves diverse audiences in exploring varieties of human experience and encourages individuals to explore the past and reflect on their own place in history.

The El Paso Museum of History serves its mission through changing exhibitions, community outreach programs, summer camps for children, living-history events, lectures, tours, craft courses and cooking demonstrations. In addition, visiting researchers may utilize the artifact, archival and photograph collections by appointment.

Our History

The El Paso Museum of History is one of three city-operated museums, including the El Paso Museum of Art and the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, each having its own facility. The El Paso Museum of History was established in 1974 as the Cavalry Museum (NOT Calvary Museum) but quickly served a scope and purpose beyond its title and began to function as a local history museum. In 1980 the name of the museum was officially changed to the El Paso Museum of History.

El Paso Museum of History

The Community

The El Paso Museum of History has consistently stressed a desire to be central to the community; to be a place where local residents can feel ownership of the city's heritage and realize how much they are a part of it. The Museum of History wants the community to feel that this is "my museum." Central to this idea is the incorporation and accommodation of multiple voices and perspectives.

The Bond Election

In the 2000 bond election, El Paso citizens were poised to explore and display its role in Texas history, approving \$6.65 million in funding for the construction of a new two-story 44,000 sq. ft. Museum of History facility located in downtown El Paso's cultural district.

The Move

Staff and the 8,000+ artifact collection moved into the new facility in February of 2007. This coming June 16th the El Paso Museum of History will open its doors to the public and once again serve the largest continuous border metroplex in North America (El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua), having a combined population of more than two million people.



Exhibits that will be ready for public preview during the Grand Opening

- El Paso A to Z 1st Floor Permanent Exhibit
- The Changing Pass 2nd Floor Permanent Exhibit

Future Permanent Exhibit

- Las Villitas 2nd Floor

1st Floor Permanent Exhibit



El Paso A to Z

The approach outlined in this Master Plan is well-suited to the wide audience that the Museum intends to reach; from history buffs to tourists, and from families to school children. The varying styles of exhibits provide multiple “entry points” and accommodate a wide range of learning styles. Taken together they allow visitors to interactively form a more holistic, authentic, and resonant portrait of the cultural mosaic that is El Paso.

This three-dimensional, immersive and bilingual encyclopedia based on artifacts, images, and documents provides a textural look at El Paso and its history. Here visitors are surrounded by a flow of objects as colorful and varied as the city itself. These materials are organized based on the English and Spanish alphabet, having the opportunity to select one or several objects for each letter. This ordering principle will allow the visitor to make his or her own personal connections to each of the displayed objects or unusual juxtapositions.

The exhibit, like a winding river through the gallery, at times is broad and full, at other points it narrows. Each item on display illuminates some aspect of living in El Paso, perhaps relating to a meaningful story of daily life or having some larger significance to the city’s history. The kinds of experience encountered here are varied and, at times, quirky. In the truest sense of “multi-sensory,” there will be items to touch, drawers to peek into and small spaces to step inside. Interpretation will be done through bilingual graphic panels.



2nd Floor Permanent Exhibit

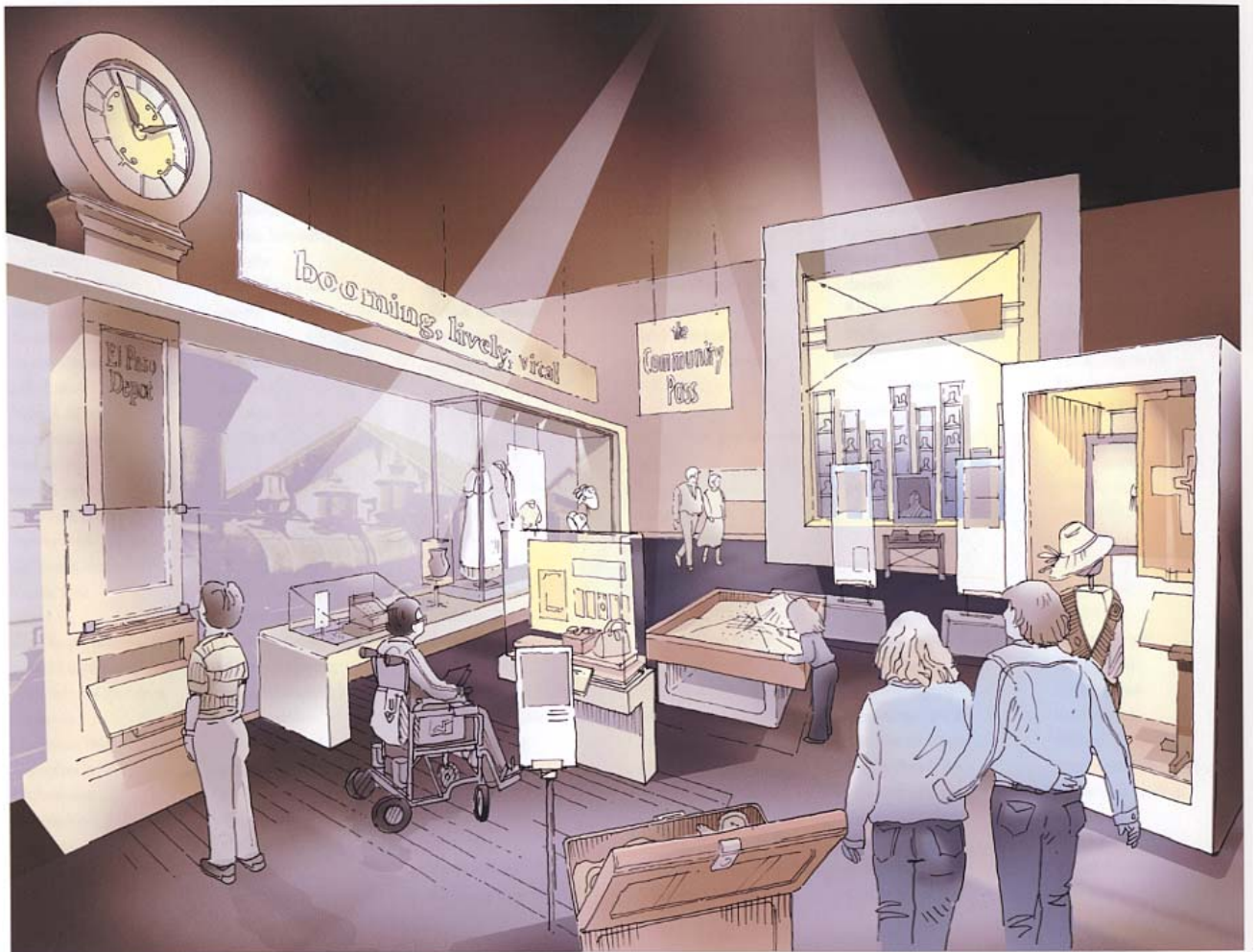


The Changing Pass

The main gallery on the second floor is a contextual experience; placing themes together for the visitor in a storyline-driven framework. Because history, by nature, is fluid and ever-changing, this exhibit concept is similarly flexible and malleable; providing three chronologically overlapping areas for visitors to explore...

- **The Living Pass: Shaped by the Land** examines how, initially, it was geography that shaped what would become El Paso, creating a city out of a physical crossroads. This crossroads was first utilized by such native inhabitants as the Manso Indians who were subsequently joined in the sixteenth century by conquistadors, missionaries and their descendants, thereby creating a new multi-culture that was often in conflict.
- **The Border Pass: Where Nations Meet** focuses on the role of the shifting border and its influence on El Paso and its people. With the establishment of the Rio Grande as an international border, El Paso becomes a border town that develops a special and complex relationship with neighboring Mexico, thus creating a burgeoning city that is enriched by parent cultures from multiple countries and peoples.
- **The Community Pass: A Tapestry of Cultures** looks at the tremendous growth of El Paso and its struggle to embrace the many cultures that have settled here. The arrival of the railroad provided not only an influx of trade and commerce, but also a huge influx of people, all with different traditions and beliefs. This gallery surveys the varied experiences of these people; where they came from, how they arrived, and what they did to adapt to – and change – their new home as they settled down.

The Changing Pass 2nd Floor Permanent Gallery



The 3rd Permanent Gallery **(2nd Floor – Phase II)**



Las Villitas

Like the neighborhoods that comprise this city, Las Villitas is designed to have bold and energetic areas and those that are more thoughtful and serene. When you enter Las Villitas you step into a *fiesta* celebrating community, taking in a broad selection of colorful neighborhood images which allude to the patchwork, quilt-like nature of El Paso.

From Chihuahita to Sunset Heights; from Kern Place to Segundo Barrio there is a distinct sense of community spirit. With the museum's guidance, the people who live in these featured neighborhoods will curate the corresponding areas. This atypical approach allows you to watch El Pasoans take ownership of their community heritage and become a living part of historical interpretation.

Temporary Exhibit Space **(1st Floor)**

Approximately 3,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space has been reserved for traveling/temporary exhibits. Once utilized, this space could host new exhibits once, twice or even three times per year.

Las Villitas Future, 2nd Floor Permanent Exhibit





El Paso Museum of History

Additional Information

- General Museum Information
- Phase Description
- Advisory Board, Foundation Board
- Senior Museum Staff
- Floor Plans

General Museum Information

Established: 1974

Previous Location: 12901 Gateway West, El Paso, TX 79928

New Location: 510 N. Santa Fe, El Paso, TX 79901

The New Location is: Part of Year 2000 Quality of Life Bond Issue

Cost: \$6,650,000

Capacity: 998

Number of Full-time Staff: 12

Director: Jennifer E. Nielsen

Contact Numbers: T: 915.351.3588 F: 915.351.4345

Website: www.elpasotexas.gov/history

Architect: Joe Gomez and Cesar Duran: Synthesis Architecture

Builder: Silverton Construction

Exhibit Design: Storyline Studio, www.storylinestudio.com

Exhibit Fabrication: Split Rock Studios, www.splitrockstudios.com

Square Footage: 44,000

Exhibit Space: 15,000

Galleries: Three permanent galleries, One temporary gallery

Exhibit Phases

Phase I - Complete

- Clean, spare, low-tech installation of El Paso A-to-Z and The Changing Pass within two-thirds of the available footprint (\$1M).

Phase II 2 – 3 years in development

- Rich media augmentation of Phase I, including film, audio-visual hardware, a multimedia adjunct system to El Paso A-to-Z
- Orientation Theater build-out
- Way-finding signage
- Development of Las Villitas (the 3rd permanent exhibit)
- One additional multimedia installation
- (\$500K).

Phase III 3 – 5 years in development

- Complete build-out of exhibits into entire space, utilizing a wider variety of exhibit techniques (no longer restricted to clean, spare and low-tech)
- Replace/update Phase I and II installations as evaluation requires
- (\$1.5M)

El Paso Museum of History Advisory Board

The Museum's volunteer Advisory Board is appointed by the Mayor and City Council.

Advisory Board: Belen Robles, Judge William Moody, Shari S. Schwartz, Linda Y. Chew, Roberto Rivera, Vicki B. Walker

El Paso Museum of History Foundation

On June 6th, 2006 the nonprofit 501 c-3 corporation, Friends of the El Paso History Museum, received permission from Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams to continue serving the Museum under a new name: El Paso Museum of History Foundation.

Foundation Board: Hughes Butterworth, Jr., Chairman, Christian Perez Giese, Vice-Chairman, Michael Bernstein, Secretary, Aaron Setliff, Treasurer, Jr., Belen Robles, Ex-officio member, Frank W. Gorman Jr., Ex-officio member, Sam Moore

Foundation Purpose

The purposes for which the corporation is organized are enlarged to include obtaining endowment and other funds and donations for the support of the El Paso Museum of History, owned and operated by the City of El Paso, Texas under the Museums Division of the Museums & Cultural Affairs Department of the City of El Paso, TX and to hold and distribute such funds for such purposes and acquisitions of exhibits and materials for the History Museum, the preservation and conservation of exhibits and collections of the History Museum, the conduct of education and interpretation programs by the History Museum and such other purposes as are consistent with the exempt purposes of the History Museum.

Museum Staff

Museum Director

Jennifer E. Nielsen has served as director of the El Paso Museum of History since 2004. She has more than twelve years experience working with collections of cultural objects - from collection management and curatorial to fundraising and development. She served as curator at the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas from 2000 to 2003, during which time the Museum opened a new facility. Additionally, she worked on the team that successfully brought the El Paso Museum of Art to its new downtown location in 1998. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from The College of William and Mary and a M.A. in Museum Science from Texas Tech University.

Museum Curator

Ms. Barbara Angus holds a Master of Arts in Anthropology/Museum Studies, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology/Archaeology, University of Arizona at Tucson. Ms Angus has been the curator of the El Paso Museum of History since 1981. She also held positions as the Museum Specialist Intern, Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, and Technical Assistant, Scenic Beauty Laboratory, Department of Psychology, University of Arizona. She has attended numerous workshops and seminars on conservation, interpretation and exhibition. Ms. Angus' areas of expertise include historic firearms and equestrian equipment.

Director of Education

Ms. Jessica S. Santascoy holds an MA in Media Studies from The New School for Social Research in New York City. She has worked on a post 9/11 re-employment project in New York, developed educational technology programs for non-profit organizations, and helped design educational initiatives for El Paso Community College. Ms. Santascoy has experience teaching and working with underserved at-risk populations in several communities, including the Bronx and Brooklyn, El Paso's public housing recipients, and *Segundo Barrio*. She has years of volunteer service, mainly serving arts and cultural institutions. She has taught people from many countries, from the third grade to university level. Ms. Santascoy is of Mexican and Native American descent.

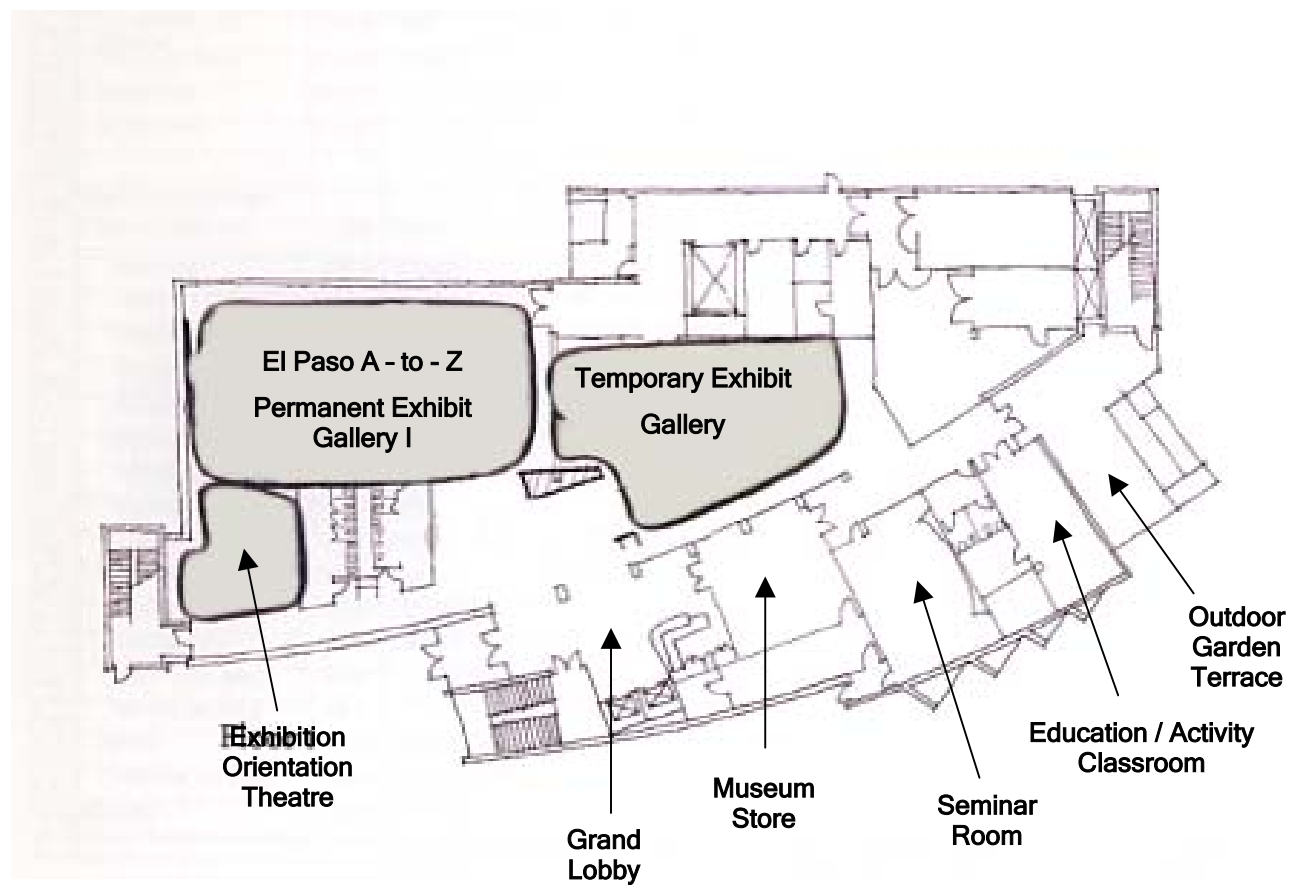
Museum Staff Continued

Director of Development

Mr. James Murphy has conducted research and provided acquisition of funding and in-kind elements for nonprofit organizations since 1992. He served as Director of Development & Special Events for the Cultural Resources Council of Syracuse and Onondaga County, a nonprofit art agency in Syracuse, NY. While in Syracuse he developed and managed three significant cultural events and served as consultant/mentor for other community-based cultural affairs. In 1994 he founded a nonprofit cultural organization that continues today. Mr. Murphy was nationally recognized in 2003 for festival/event director. Moving to El Paso, TX in 2004, he accepted the Managing Director position for El Paso Opera where he created the opportunity for long-term fiscal stability.

EL PASO MUSEUM OF HISTORY

1st FLOOR



EL PASO MUSEUM OF HISTORY

2nd Floor

